

Please pay attention : narrative strategies in VR animation

Hodgkinson, Gray

2019

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Please Pay Attention

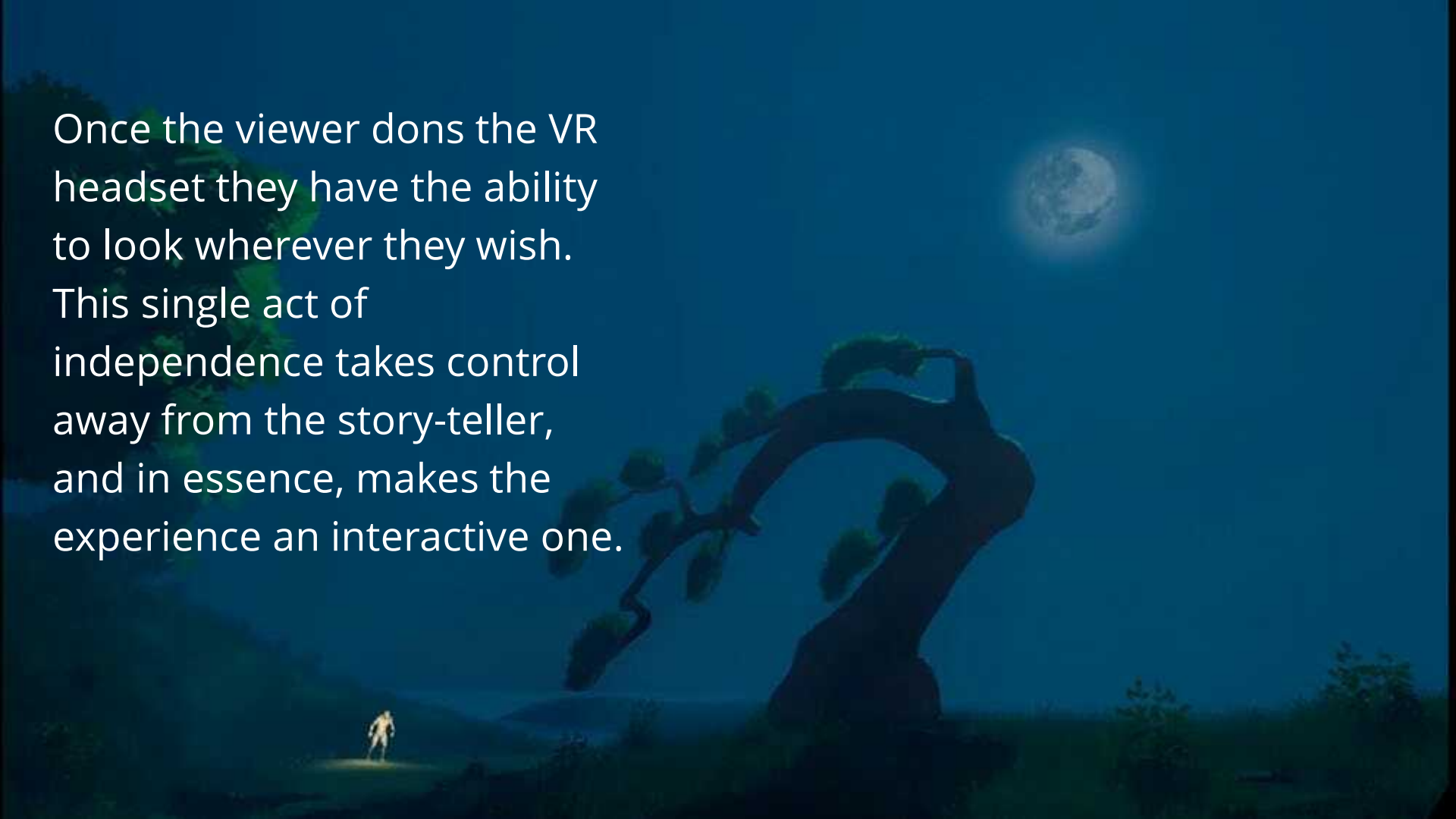
Narrative Strategies in VR animation

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Tier 2 Grant *From Print to Digital: Re-Defining Narrativity for
Interactive Digital Media*

Once the viewer dons the VR headset they have the ability to look wherever they wish. This single act of independence takes control away from the story-teller, and in essence, makes the experience an interactive one.



VR film is like a film?

2D in VR?

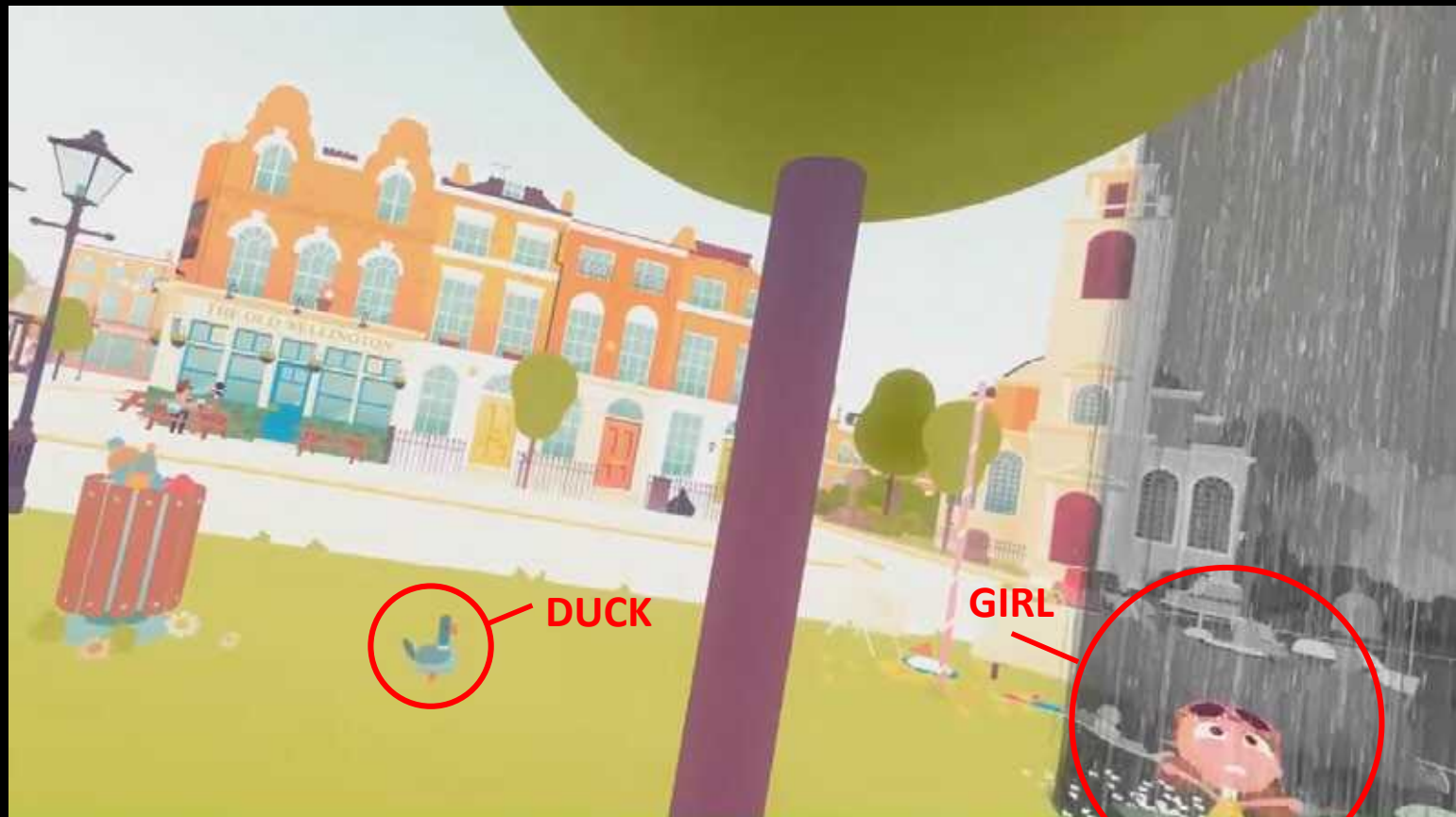
A passive medium.

(Gödde 2018)

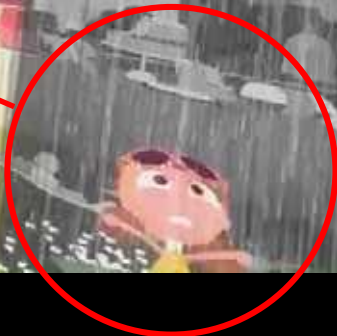
Gödde, Michael, et al.
"Cinematic Narration in
VR-Rethinking Film
Conventions for 360
Degrees." International
Conference on Virtual,
Augmented and Mixed
Reality. Springer, Cham,
2018.



The wandering gaze



DUCK



GIRL

VR animation has so far mostly been “2D in VR”.



180 degree arc.



It is still a “screen”.



Fixed
viewer.

Changing
landscape.

Clever.



Animated Interpolation



Age of Sail.

Cinematic.

Uses a
known
language of
scene
editing.



VR Shakespeare Mash-Up

Macbeth

The Tempest

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Endorsed by Shakespearean advisor Prof. Michael Dobson, Director of the Shakespeare Institute; Professor of Shakespeare Studies, Stratford.



VR Shakespeare Mash-Up

The overall intention is to enable the viewer to experience Shakespeare in a stylised animated environment



Macbeth – Style design



Macbeth: The Witches – Style design



The Tempest - Style design



A Midsummer Night's Dream – Style design



Three Witches



Macbeth Characters



DUNCAN



MACDUFF



MACBETH

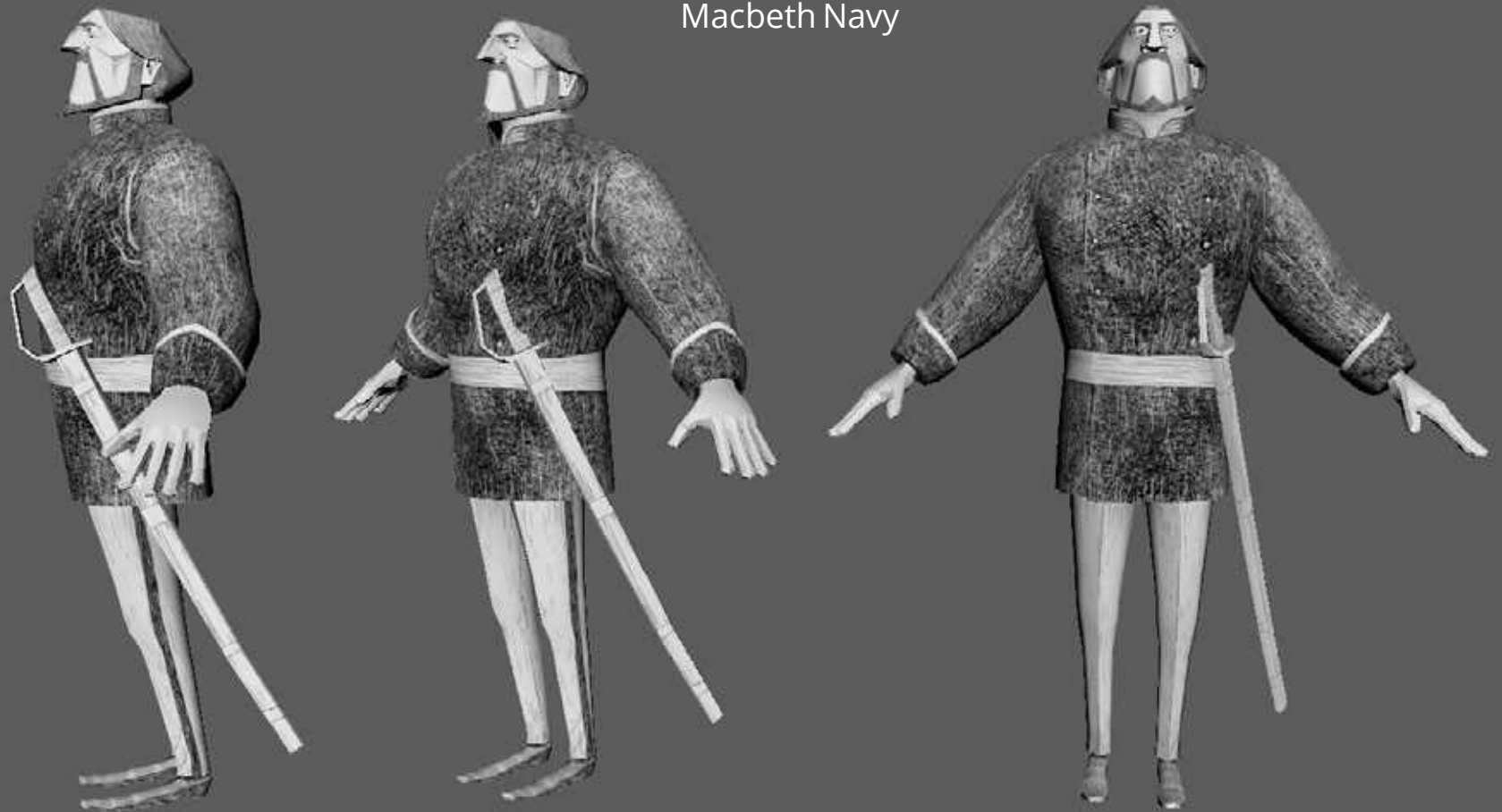


BOATSWAIN



CREWMATE

3D Model Textured –
Macbeth Navy



3D work in progress – Macduff



3D work in progress – Macduff



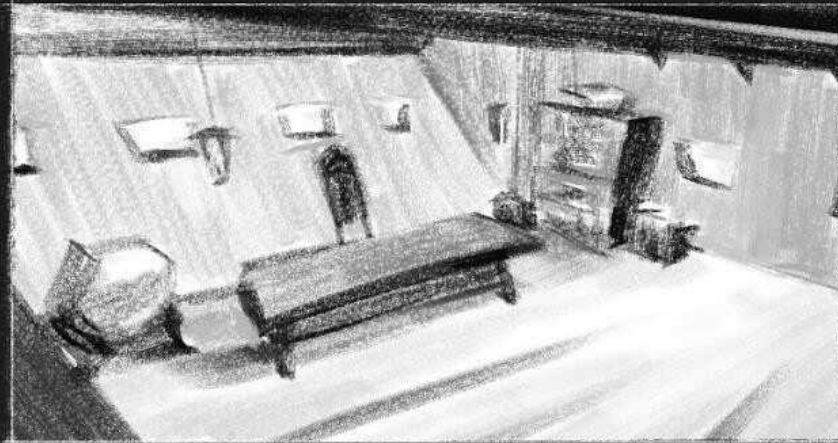
Environment



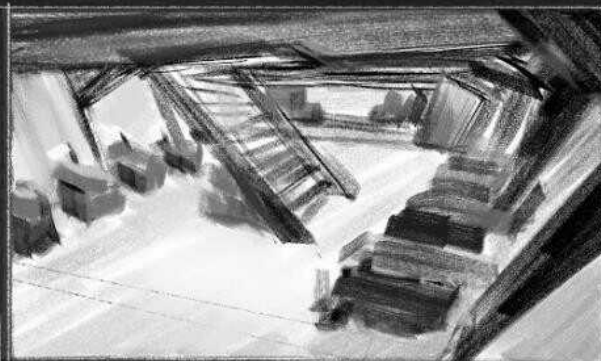
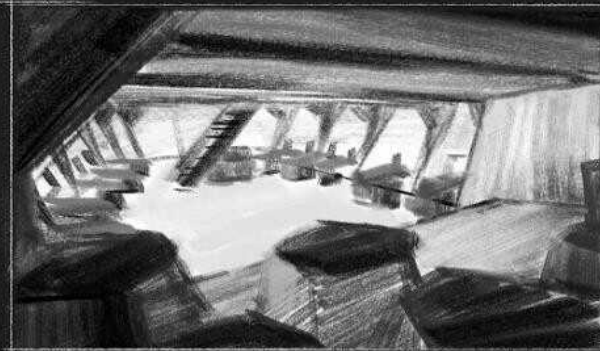
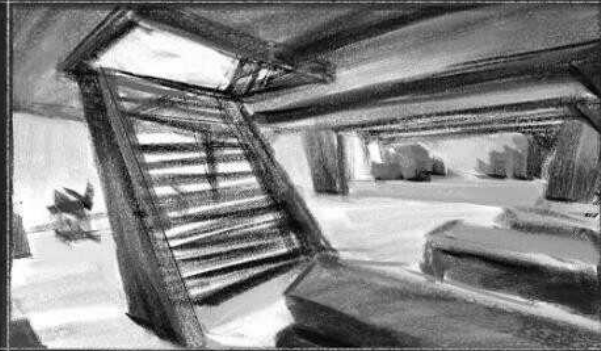
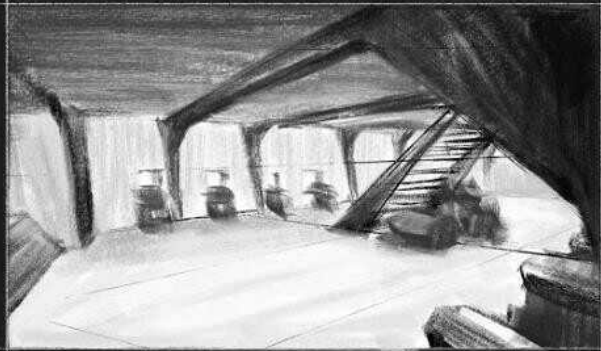








CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS



BELOW DECK

Captain's Quarters



CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

The Tempest Characters



Prospero



Miranda



Antonio

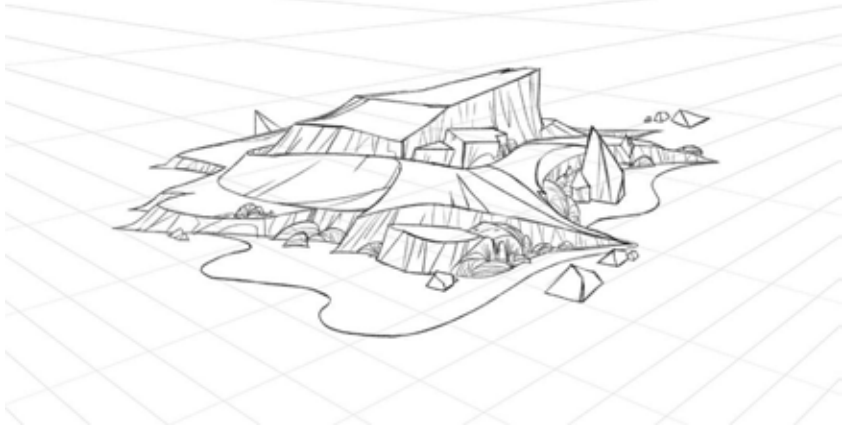
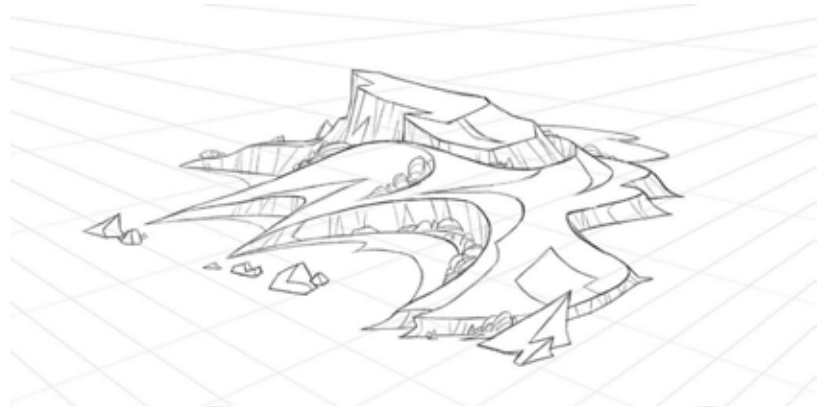


Ferdinand



Ariel

The Tempest – Island Design



The Tempest – Beach Design







The Tempest – 3D beach work in progress



The Tempest - Foliage Path to Forest



A Midsummer Night's Dream Characters



Oberon



Titania



Ariel (Puck)



Fairy 01



Fairy 02

Oberon



Titania – Queen of the Fairies



A Midsummer Night's Dream – Titania work in progress



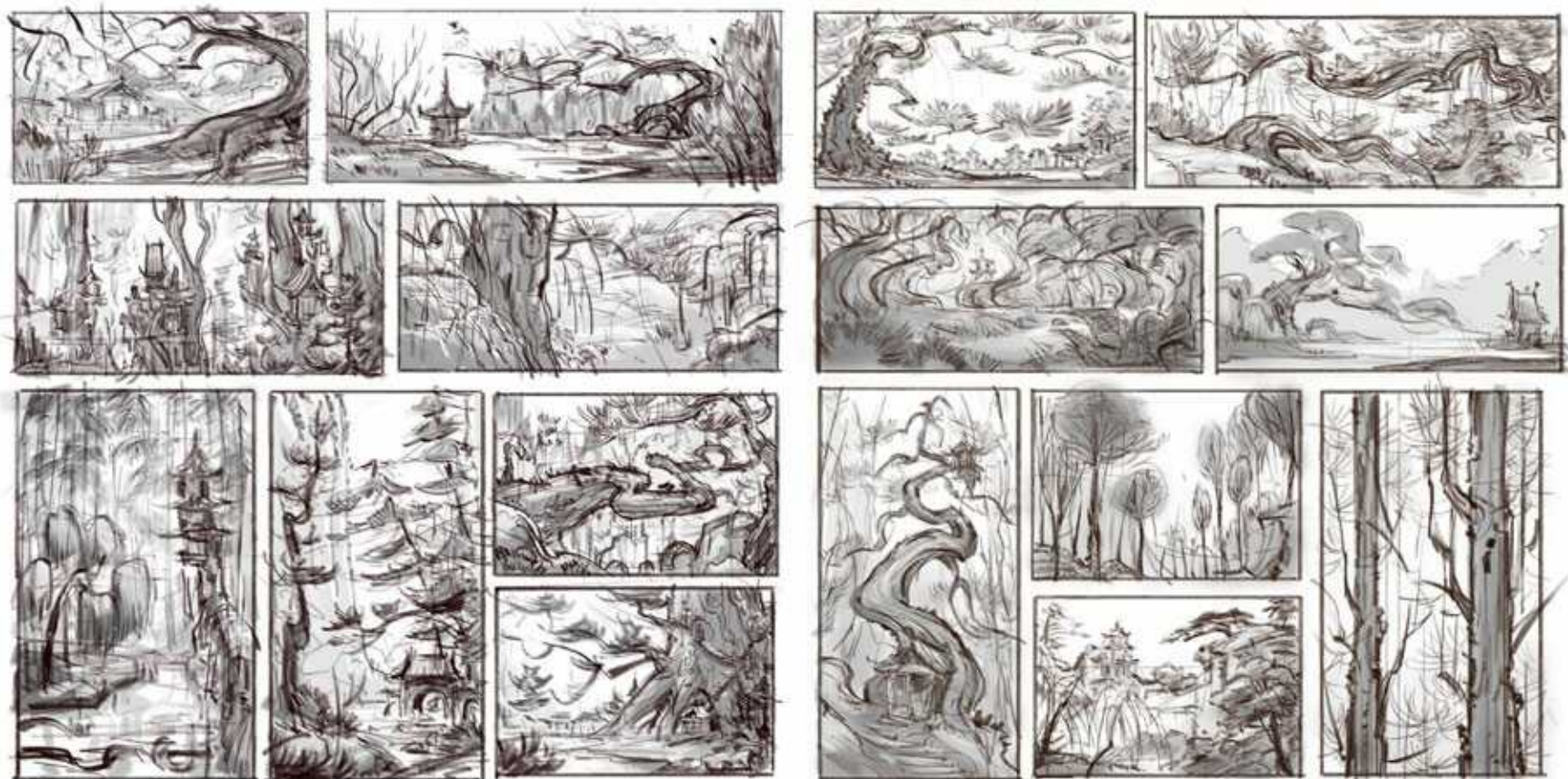
Ariel / Puck



A Midsummer
Night's Dream –
Fairy



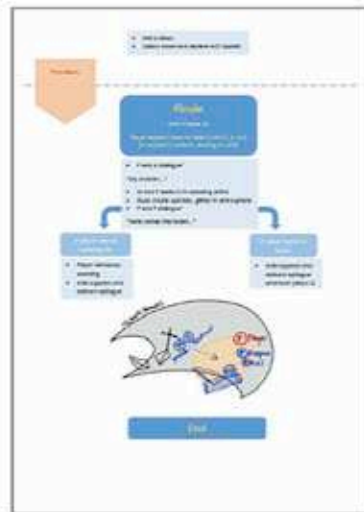
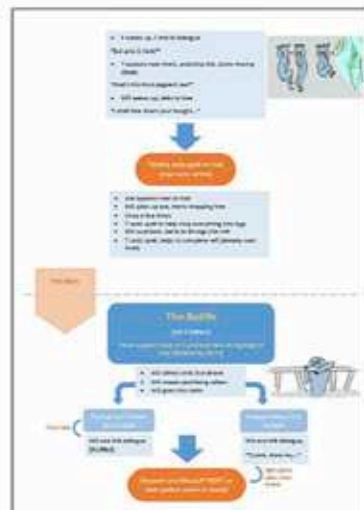
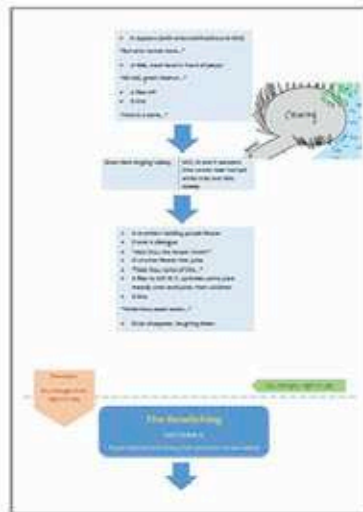
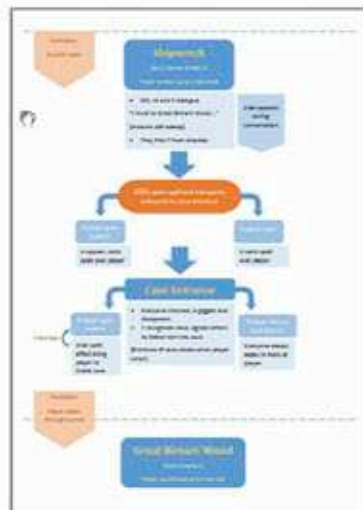
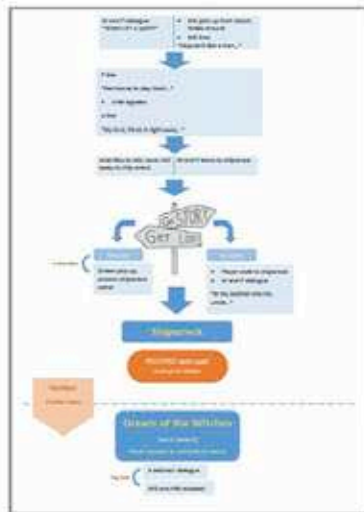
A Midsummer Night's Dream – Forest designs

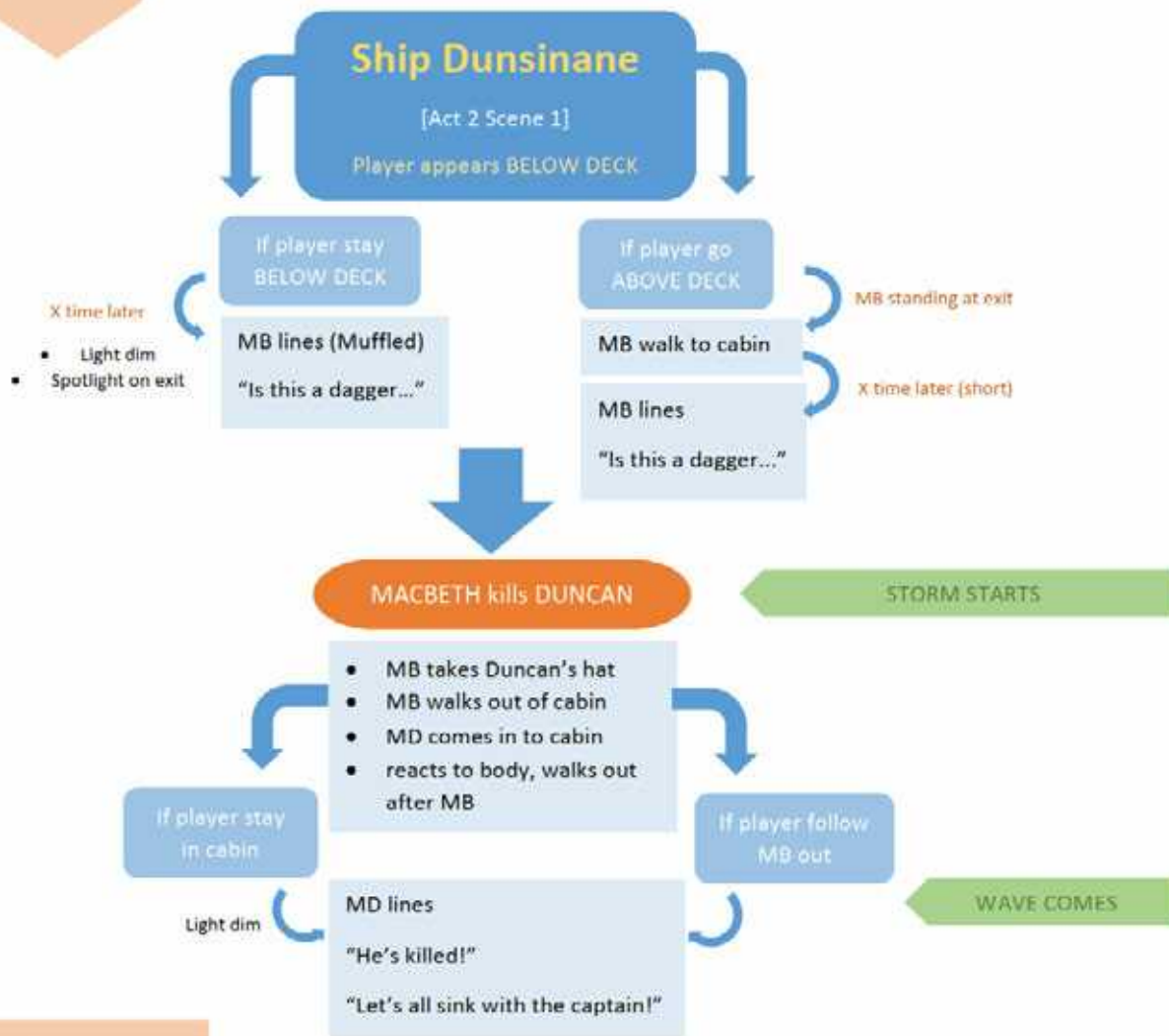


A Midsummer Night's Dream – Forest designs









P line

"Perchance to slay them..."

- Ariel appears

A line

"My lord, I'll do it right away..."

Ariel flies to MD, leads MD
away to ship wreck

M and P leave to shipwreck



Get Lost

Screen pop up,
screens Shipwreck
scene

X time later

Go story

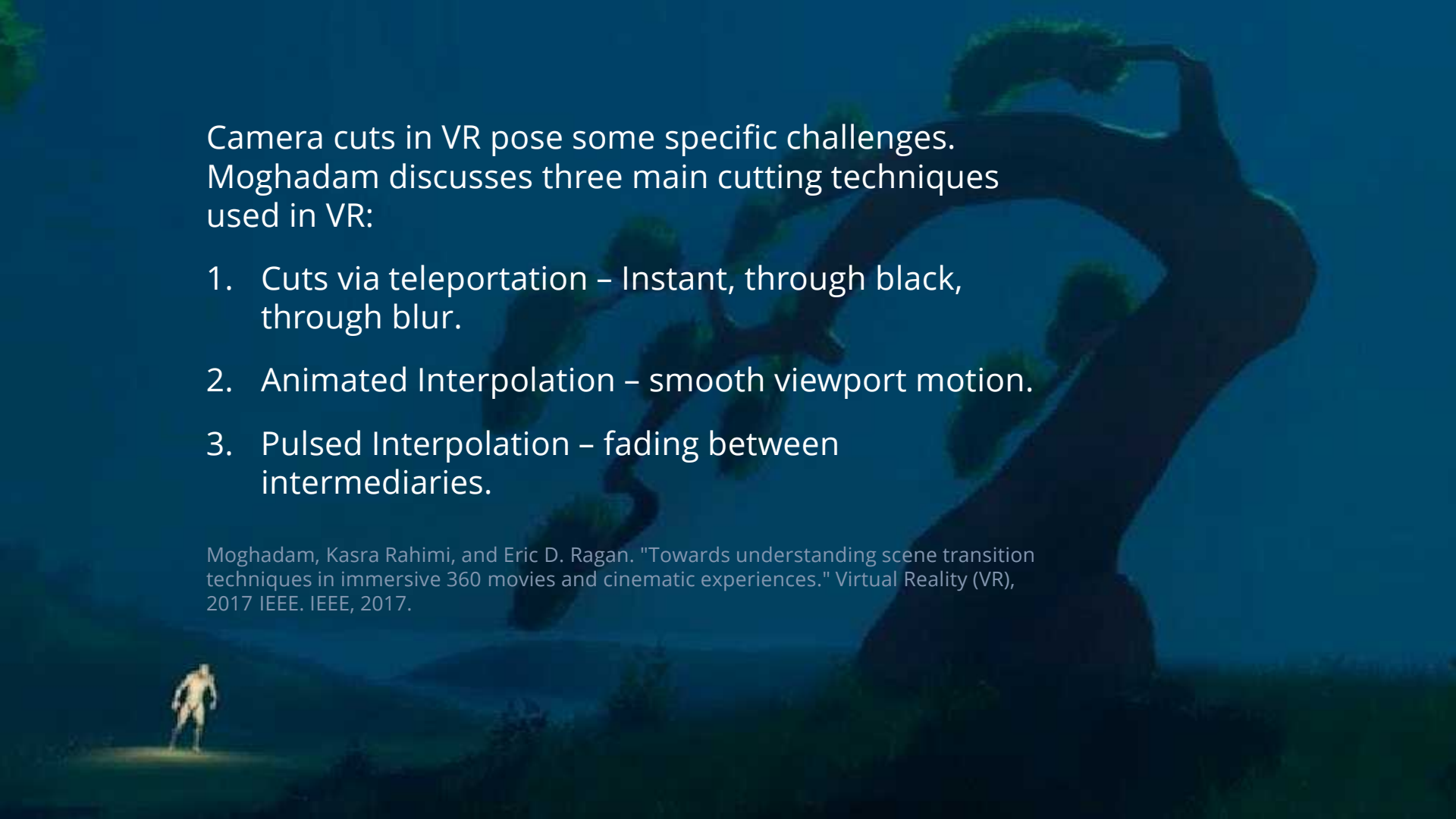
- Player walk to shipwreck
 - M and P dialogue
- "In my brother and thy
uncle..."

Shipwreck

Four
locations.

How to
travel
between?





Camera cuts in VR pose some specific challenges. Moghadam discusses three main cutting techniques used in VR:

1. Cuts via teleportation – Instant, through black, through blur.
2. Animated Interpolation – smooth viewport motion.
3. Pulsed Interpolation – fading between intermediaries.

Moghadam, Kasra Rahimi, and Eric D. Ragan. "Towards understanding scene transition techniques in immersive 360 movies and cinematic experiences." *Virtual Reality (VR)*, 2017 IEEE. IEEE, 2017.

Transitioning from scene
to scene

Witches -> Ship

walkthrough



Transitioning from scene
to scene

Ship -> Shore

walkthrough



Transitioning from scene
to scene

Beach -> Forest

walkthrough

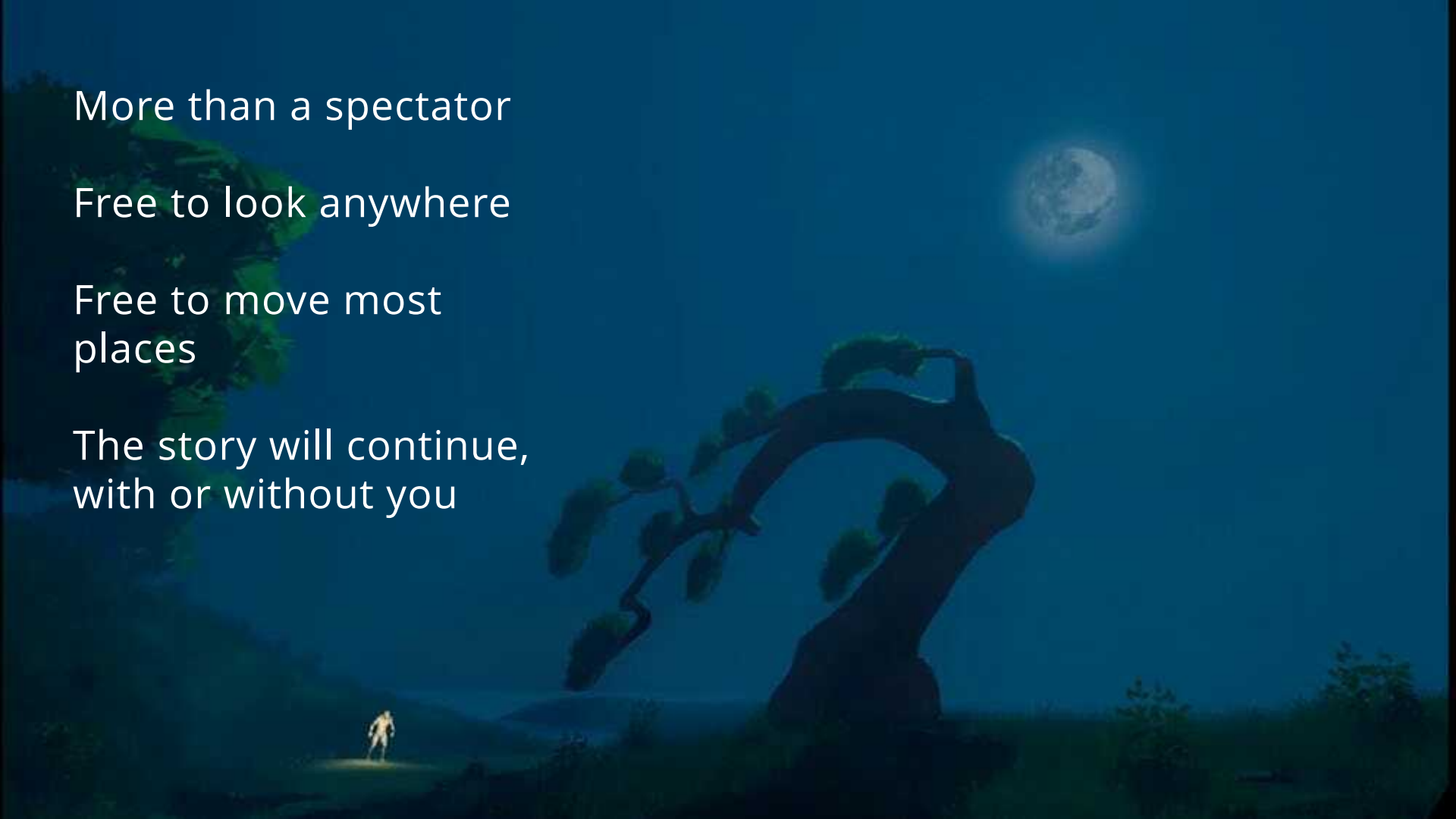


More than a spectator

Free to look anywhere

Free to move most
places

The story will continue,
with or without you





Thank you

Hans-Martin Rall (Principle), Alvin Tay Wen Xiang, Andrew Michael Duffy, Ben Alvin Shedd, Chee Yam San, Chen Juntao, Daniel Keith Jernigan, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Elke Evelin Reinhuber, Gray Hodgkinson, Michael Dobson, Seah Hock Soon, Rich Ling, Siew May khoo, Sulaiman Bin Abdul Rahman, Tissina George, Weber Wibke, Xue Enge.

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